

# ARTICLES to be enquired of


Within the Diocesse of Chester,  
in the Visitation of the Reuerend Father in  
God, *Richard, Bishop of Chester*, in  
the second yeere of the raigne of our  
*gracious Soueraigne Lord*  
*King Iames, &c.*

*Richard Vaughan*



LONDON  
Printed by Simon Stafford. 1604.

ARTICLES  
to be enquired of  
The tenour of the Oath ministered to all and euery  
the Church-wardens and sworn men.

 O V, and euery of you, shall sweare by  
Almighty God, that all affection set a-  
side, you shall vpon due consideration  
of these Articles giuen you in charge, present all  
and euery such person, of, or within your parish,  
as hath committed any offence, or made any de-  
fault, mentioned in the same Articles, or which  
are vehemently suspected or otherwise defamed  
of any such offence, fault, or default: wherein you  
and euery of you shall deale vprightly, as before  
God: so help you God, and his faithful promises  
contayned in these his holy bookes.

LONDON

Printed by Simon Stichey.

## Articles.



**F**irst, whether your Church, Chappell or Chancel be wel and sufficiently repayed and cleanly kept, and the mansion house of your Parson or Vicar with the buildings therevnto belonging likewise wel & sufficiently repaired, and your Churchyard wel fenced and cleanly kept: And if any default be made in the premises, or the sayd Church, Chappell, or Churchyard be abused or prophaned by any unlawfull or unseemely act, game, or exercise, as by Lords of misrule, Summer lords or ladies, Pipers, Rushbearers, Morris dancers, Pedlers, Bearewards, and such like: Then through whose default, and what be the names of the offendours in that behalfe?

Church  
& church  
yard.

2 Whether your Churches or Chappels be, or haue bin destitute of a Curate, and how long, and by whose default: and whether any Curate haue, or do serue without licence of the Ordinarie, & what stipend euery one hath allowed him?

Curate

3 Whether any victualling, tipling, or ale-selling, be kept or vsed within the mansion house of any Parson, Vicar or Curate.

Stipend  
The  
sonage  
Necessaries  
ornaments

4 Whether you haue in your Church or chappell all things necessary and requisite for Common prayer & administration of the holy Sacraments, specially the Booke of Common prayer, with the new Kalender, the Psalter, the Bible of the largest volume, the Homilies both first and second Tome, M. Iewels Reply and Apologie against M. Harding, a comely and decet table, standing on a frame for the Communion table, with faire linnen cloth to lay vpon the same, and some covering of silke, buckram, or other such like, for the cleane keeping thereof, a faire and comely Communion cup of silver for the same, a comely large Surplesse with wide sleeves, a sure coffer with two lockes and keyes for keeping of the Register booke, and al other things necessarie for the premises, with a comely Pulpit conueniently placed, and also a chest or box for the poyse.

5 Whether Common prayer be vsed in your Church or Chappell vpon Sundayes & holy dayes at conuenient houres, reuerently, distinctly, & in such order, without any kind of alteration, as is appointed by the booke of Common prayer, and the lawes of this Realme: And whether your Minister so turne himselfe, & stand in such place of your Church or Chancel, as the people may best heare the same: And whether your Parson or Vicar do once euery quarter at the

Scrutiny



## Articles.

the Sacraments, wearing a Surplesse according to the late **Queens** Injunctions, & the lawes of the Realme: And whether the holy Sacraments be duely & reuerently ministered, in such maner as is set forth by the same booke, without adding or diminishing from the same: And whether your Minister at all times upon Sundayes and Holydayes doe weare, in time of diuine service, and administration of the Sacraments, the surplesse, yea or no, or do suffer any other to say the Common prayer, or minister either of the Sacraments in your Church, not wearing the same?

6 Whether your Parson or Vicar be a Preacher allowed, & hath preached, or caused to be preached 12. Sermons at the least euery yere in your Church, according to the late Canons in that behalf, and what be the names of him or those y<sup>e</sup> so did preach, and whether they were lawfully licensed so to preach, if any other the your Parson or Vicar did preach the same: And whether if there be no Sermons, your Minister do read for y<sup>e</sup> most part euery Sunday, distinctly and plainly, some part of the Homilies appointed to be read, and the late **Queens** Injunctions euery quarter of a yere, or no?

7 Whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate, do euery Sunday & holy day openly in the Church call for, heare & instruct all the children, apprentises and seruants of both sexes, that be of convenient age in your parish, or at the least so many of them by course as the time will serue, & as he may well heare and instruct for half an houre at the least, befoze or at the Euening prayer, in the ten Commandments, the Articles of the beliefe, & the Lords prayer, and diligently examine & teach them the Catechisme, as it is now allowed and set forth: And whether for that purpose he doth take the names of the all, & by course call certaine of them by name euery Sunday and holy day to come to learne the same Catechisme: And whether the Churchwardens and Swozne men doe assist the Minister, as hee doeth prescribe them in that godly action?

8 Whether all fathers, mothers, masters and dames of your parish, cause their children, seruants and apprentises, both mankinde and womankind, being aboue five yeres of age, to come to the Church on the Sundayes and holy dayes, at the times to them appointed, or at the least, such or so many of the as your Minister shall appoynt, and there diligently, and obediently to heare, and to be ordered by the Minister, y<sup>e</sup> they may be instructed in the grounds and principles of true Religion, & what the names of those that doe

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## Articles.

Church to be intruded and examined, or the names of the parties themselves that haue absented themselves from that goodly exercise:

9 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or any other within your Parish, be a fauourer of the Romish church or religion, or of any other sect or schismaticall opinion, or hath or doeth maintaine or teach any doctrine contrarie or repugnant to any of the Articles agreed vpon by the Clergie in the Conuocation holden at London, Anno Domini. 1562. And whether they haue publikey or secretly taught any doctrine tending to the discredit and dispraise of the booke of common prayer, or of the Preachers and Ministers of the word and sacraments, or of the receiued order for gouernment in the Church of England, or make any other Innouation: And whether they haue permitted any man so teaching or making such Innouation: And whether any keepe any secret conuenticles, preachings, lectures, or readings, or priuate communions in their houses or elsewhere contrary to the law, and what be their names? Super-  
tion.  
Inno-  
tion.

10 Whether any person or persons, not being a Deacon at the least, or licensed by the Ordinary, do say common prayer openly in your Church or Chappell, or any not being at the least a deacon, do solemnize Matrimony, or administer the Sacrament of Baptisme: and what he or they be that so doe? Conu-  
ticles.

11 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate hath admitted any to the receiuing of the holy communion aboue xx. yeeres of age, that can not say by heart the Lords prayer, the Articles of the faith, & the ten Commandements in English, or aboue xiiii. yeeres of age, and vnder xx. that can not say the Catechisme set forth in the booke of common prayer, or hath admitted any of any other Parish to receiue the holy Communion, without reasonable cause or speciall licence of their owne Minister, vnder his hand: or whether he hath admitted to receiue the holy Communion any open and notorious blasphemers, fornicators, adulterers, drunkards, or euill liuers, by whom the Congregation is offended, without due penance first done to the satisfaction of the congregation: or any malicious person that is notoriously known to be out of charity, or that hath done open wrong to his neighbour by word or deed, without due reconciliation first made to the party that is wronged? Curate  
Comm-  
nion.

12 Whether your Font be sweetly kept & renewed from time to time with cleane & fresh water: and whether any Minister leauing the vse of the Font, do christen or baptize in any basons, or other prophane vessels, not customably vsed in the Church before times Baptisme

# Articles.

**1** Whether your Minister doe baptize or chysen any out of the face of the Church and Congregation?

**13** Whether the Register booke of all chysennings, marriages and burials that happen in your parish from time to time be duely kept: and the same chysennings, marriages and burials, entred into the same booke by your Minister, according to the late Quenes Injunctions, and the late Canon set forth to that ende, confirmed under the great seale of England?

**14** Whether your Minister hath married any persons privately in any house or corner of the Church or face of the Congregation, or the banes not being thysse solemnly on thre Sundayes or holydaies asked in the parish Church where such persons dwelled, or any such person or persons married at any other Church or Chappell: & whether your Minister hath married any infants, or childeen vnder age, or any within the degrees prohibited by Gods lawes, and the lawes of this Realme or any that hath a husband or wife living: and if he haue done so, then who be the parties, and who were present at any such marriage, and in what place was the same solemnized?

**15** Whether your Minister do church any unmarried women, after they haue ben deliuered of their childeen begotte vnlawfully, before they haue acknowledged their faults openly, according to the order prescribed by the Ordinarie or his deputie?

**16** Whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate, bee diligent in visiting the sicke, and comforting them, and doe moue them earnestly (especially whē they make their Testaments) to consider the need of the poore, & to giue to their boxe or chest, their charitable deuotions: and whether they bury the dead without any Popish ceremonies or superstition, in such Christian and comely maner, as is prescribed in the booke of common prayer: and whether any Lay man, other then a lawfull Minister, hath taken vpon him to bury the dead, contrary to order?

**17** Whether for the retayning of the perambulation of the circuit of your Parish, the Minister and Clerke, with the Churchwardens and certaine of the substantial men of the Parish, in the dayes of the Rogations, walke about your Parish, according to the late Quenes Injunctions?

**18** Whether your Minister do monish & warne the Churchwardens and swozne men to looke to their charge, and to obserue, who (contrary to the said Statute) offend, in absenting themselves negligently or wilfully from their Parish Church or Chappell, or breake

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19 Whether hath your Parson or Vicar any mise benefices or Plural spiritual promotions the one, how many, & in what country be they, ties. what are their names, and who is the Patron of euery of them?

20 Whether is your Parson or Vicar resident & dwelling vpon his benefice or no? If he be resident, whether doth he keepe the Parsonage or Vicarage with the glebe & other his tithes & commodities in his own hands, or doth he demise the same, or any part therof to his patron, or any other person or persons, what parcels are so demised, to who, & for what rent? If he be not resident, or absent aboue 80. dayes in the yere, then whether doth he demise his Benefice to his Curate: and if he be able to dispend 20. pound by the yere, doth he distribute the fortyeth part thereof to the poore of the parish or no? And whether doth he keepe a Preacher vpon his benefice during his absence, yea or no?

21 Whether your Parsons or Vicars haue come to their benefices by any Simony, fraud or deceit, or by any conference or agreement of friends, or any other bond, composition or agrément, or by any other colozable pact, or vnlawful meane whatsoeuer, or be vehemently suspected or defamed thereof? And whether in performace of any such pact, couenāt or promise, there hath bin any bond or lease made betwē the Patron and Incumbent, directly or indirectly.

22 Whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate, do keepe any suspected woman in his house, or be an incontīnēt person, giuen to drunkenness or tolenes, or be a haunter of Tauerne, Alehouses, or suspected places, a cōmon hunter, hawker, dicer, carder, tabler, swearer, or otherwise giue any euill example of life? And whether his apparel be comely and graue, as becommeth his calling and function?

23 Whether the parish Clark be appointed according to the ancient custome of the parish? And whether he be not obedient to the Parson, Vicar or Curate, especially in the time of celebration of diuine seruice, or of the sacraments, or in any preparation thereunto? And whether he be able & ready to read the first Lesson, the Epistle and the Psalmes, with answer to the Suffrages, as is vsed: and whether he keepe not the bookes & ornaments of the Church fayre and cleane, & cause the church & Altire, the Communion table, the Pulpit and the Font to be made decent and cleane against the seruice time, the Communion, Sermon and Baptisme?

24 Whether haue your Churchwardens & swozne men assisted your Minister in his office & function, from time to time, & whether haue they done their diligence to bring such to the Church as stand



## Articles.

gazing and talking in the churchyard, and frequent and late in ale houses or tippling houses in the time of divine service, and whether they have bene careful & diligent to see good order and silence kept in the Church during the time of sermons and service, and whether haue they in a speciall booke diligently noted the names of all such parties every Sunday & holy day, as haue bene absent from diuine service at any time, & leuyed the forfeiture of xij. pence for every absence from common prayer, according to the statute, and put the same to the vse of the poore of the parish? And if they haue offended in any of the premises, then how often haue they so offended, & what bee their names, and what particular summes of money haue bene forfeited that way, & by whom since the last visitation, and how much of such forfeitures haue bene leuyed by the Churchwardens, and by them deliuered to the vse of the poore of the parish, and to whome hath the same bene deliuered?

ur ch-  
rdens  
ount.

25 Whether your Churchwardens haue yere ly given an account of the Church goods committed to their charge, & of other their receipts and expenses? And whether they haue sold any belles, or other Church goods, without consent of the Ordinary first had in writing: and whether they haue imployed all such goods, receipts and summes of money to the vse of the Church or no? And what be the names of the offenders?

urch-  
rdens  
calers

26 Whether the Churchwardens & sworn men in former yeres, haue of any private corrupt affection concealed any crime, or other disorder done in their times, & haue not presented the same? And if so, then what faults they haue so concealed, & what were the names of such Churchwardens and sworn men, so concealing the same?

27 Whether do you know any which haue eatē flesh in the time of lent, or other dayes prohibited, contrary to the lawes in that case provided: and not hauing speciall licence of the Ordinary?

28 Whether hath there bene any contention or strife for seats, pewes, formes, or buriall place in your Church or Chappel, and by whom these contentions haue bene made?

lec-  
for  
poore

29 Whether haue ye collectors for the poore of the parish, & whether do they their duty in gathering & distributing the almes of the parishioners, & whether haue any collectors any money for their bills not accounted for, or not bestowed upon the poore? And whether be there any of ability within your parish, that wilfully or obstinately refuse to giue reasonably to the reliefe of the poore?

30 Whether when any christian body is in passing, the bell

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colled to moue the people to pray for the sicke person, especially in Ringing the greater Towlles, where the sick person dwelleth nere vnto the Church, & whether after the time of his or their passing out of the Church, & whether there be any more ringing but one short peale before the buriall, and another short peale after the buriall: And whether on All Saints day after Euening prayer, there bee any ringing at all in your Church or Chappel, or any other superstitious ceremonies vsed, tending to the maintenance of the Popish Purgatorie, or prayer for the dead, & who they be y<sup>e</sup> ble to do the same: and whether there be any ringing on Sundayes or Holydayes in the Seruice time, or betwene Morning prayer & the Letany, or at any other times, contrary to good order and lawe:

31 Whether Schoolmasters haue you within your Parish or Chappell, that teach either openly or priuately in any Schoole, Gentlemans house, or else where, & whether bee they of god & sincere Religion, and licenced by the Bishop of the Diocesse or his officers, to teach in writing vnder his seale, & whether be they diligent in teaching and bringing vp youth, & to instruct them in godlines & vertue, and specially in M. Nowels Catechisme, lately set forth: And whether teach they any thing now godly established, or do not cause their children to resort vnto the Church to heare diuine Seruice and Sermons: Schoole masters.

32 Whether the Chancellor, Commissaries, Deanes rurall, or any other vsing ecclesiastical iurisdiction in his diocesse, their Regt. Rurall & Clerks, or Actuaries, Apparators or Sumners, haue at any time winked at and suffered any adulteries, fornications, incests, or other faults or offences to passe and remaine unpunished & uncorrected for money, rewards, bribes, pleasure, friendship, or any other partial or affectionate respect: or haue commuted any penance without special licence of his Ordinary. Deanes Rurall & Sumners.

33 Whether the people of your parish, especially householders, do negligently or willfully absent themselves, or come very late to the Church vpon Sundayes especially, & how long hath any of your parish absented himselfe from his Parish Church, what bee their names and conditions, and in what Townshipp doe they dwell: Resort to common prayer.

34 Whether there be any in your parish, man or woman, being of conuenient age, that hath not receyued the holy Communion thrice at the least euery yere, and namely at Easter last or thereabouts, for once, & what be their names, and for what cause, in your iudgement, they do abstain from the holy Communion: and whether Not communicating.

any haue receyued the holy Cōmunion in any other parish Church  
or Chappell then their owne, and for what causes in your opinion

rit- 35 Whether do you know any such parentes hauing children  
gs out bozne, that are yet vnchristened, or that were not christened at their  
the owne parish church, & for what cause they remaine yet vnchristened  
ish. or haue not ben christened at their Parish church, or doe you know,  
haue heard, or vehemently suspect any such parents, whose children  
haue ben christened by any Popish priest, or other wise then is now  
lawfully allowed by the Lawes and Injunctions?

ppref- 36 Whether there be any within your Parish, that minister the  
s of goods of those which be dead, without lawful authoritie, or any that  
sta- suppress the testaments or last will of the dead, or any executoz that  
ents. hath not fulfilled the testatozs will, especially such as haue not dis-  
charged such legacies as were bequeathed to to y<sup>e</sup> Church, or to Mi-  
phanes, poore maids marriages, high waies, scholes or other godly  
bles, and what be their names?

esta- 37 Whether do you know any householder, or other person what-  
ets not soeuer within your parish or Chappellrie, that is deceased, that haue  
bued. made their last wills and testament, & the same not hitherto pꝛoued  
noꝛ administration taken frō the Ordinarie or other Judge compe-  
tent, of the goods, debts, and cattels, of the said decedent? If any such  
be, expresse their names, and of them who unlawfully do detaine the  
said goods, debts, or cattells in their hands.

he othe 38 Whether doth your Deane rurall vsually sweare all such  
r an In Executors and administrators, that pꝛoue testaments, or take ad-  
ntary. ministrations befoze him, to exhibite a true & perfect Inuentary and  
apprisement, of all such goods, debts and cattels, as euery such per-  
son dyed possessed of, or for any priuate respects to beareth to mini-  
ster such othe vnto them, and whether do you know or haue heard  
your Deane hath done so at any time?

ases 39 Whether do you know any the executozs or administrators  
t pri- of any person or persons deceased, that dwelled in your Parish or  
d in the Chappellrie, that haue not inserted all such lease or leases or other  
uētary. demise for terme of one or moze yeres, in the Inuentary of the goods,  
debts, and cattells of the sayd deceased, at such time as they procu-  
red the sayd testaments to be pꝛoued, or administration of the said  
goods to be to them orderly committed? Or haue not procured the  
same leases to be pꝛised and valued among other the goods and ca-  
tells of the said decedent, for the benefite of the wife, children, and of  
others to whom the benefite of them ought to appertaine? and whe-  
ther



ther doe you know, haue heard, or beleue, your Deane hath bozne, winked at, or willingly suffered such lease or leases for his priuate commodity to be left out of the said Inuentary?

40 Whether hath your Deane rurall medled with any adulterous incestuous persons, or take vpon him to pꝛoue the testamēt of any knight or minister, or of any other person departed, whose Inuentarie surmounted the summe of foztie pounds, and whether hath any of your sayd Deanes winked at any offender, commuted his penance, or dispensed with him for doing the same: & what summes of money haue they taken of any offender, & what be their names?

41 Whether your Hospitals, Spittles and Almes houses bee wel and godly bled, according to the foundation and ancient ordināces of the same: Whether there be any placed in them other then poore, impotent and needie persons, that haue not where with to liue?

42 Whether there bee any that bee married in degrees forbidden, or that haue married two wiues, or two husbands both liuing, or that liue not together with their wiues, and what be their names: Any married that haue made pꝛecontracts, any that haue married without Banes thꝛice solemnly asked, or that haue been married forth of their Parish church, wher they ought to haue solemnized marriage?

43 Whether any person or persons within your parish, haue committed vsury, contrary to an act against vsurie, made in the xxxvii. yere of the reigne of the late K. Henry the 8. & lately reuiued, & what are the names of such vsurers, and what is the manner of their vsury?

44 Whether there be any man or woman in your Parish, that vseth witchcraft, soꝛcery, charmes or vnlawful pꝛaier, or innocations in Latin or English, or otherwise vpon any chꝛistian body or beast, or any that resorteth to the same for counsell or helpe, and what be their names?

45 Whether be there any Inke & pers, Alewiues, Alduallers or Alehouse Tiplers, y<sup>e</sup> suffer or doe admit any person or persons in their houses to eate, orinke, or play at cards, tables, or such like games in time of common Pꝛayer, or Sermon on the Sundayes and Holidayes, and whether there bee any shops open on Sundayes or Holidayes, or be there any Butchers, Pedlers, or others, that vse to sell meate and other things, in the time of Common pꝛayer, pꝛeaching, or reading of the Homilies: and whether in any Fair, or common Markets, falling on the Sunday, there be any shewing of any wares before the diuine Service be done in the soꝛenone: declare their names, and in what parish they dwell.

ten- 46 Whether there be in your Parish any that be malicious,  
drū- contentious, or uncharitable persons, seeking the vniuersal beration  
esse, of their neighbours, scolds, common swearers, or blasphemers of the  
name of God, any fornicators, Adulterers, incestuous persons,  
bawdes, or receiuers of incontinent persons or harborers of women  
with childe, which be vnmarried, conueying or suffering them to goe  
away before they haue done any penance, or make satisfaction to the  
Congregation, or any persons that are vehemently suspected of such  
faults, or that be not of good name & fame touching such crimes and  
faults, any common Drunkards, Ribaulds, or other notorious  
euill liuers.

istry, 47 Whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate, openly or pri-  
ue, & natelie say Masse, or other Service forbidden, or heare the same:  
ests, And whether do you know any Popish priests, Seminarie, Jesuite,  
or runnagate persons, that do preach or minister the Sacraments,  
otherwise then they are now vled, or that doth bise Christ & anicul-  
lar confession, or make holy water, or holy bycad or blasse Psalmes,  
or practise any such like Romish ceremonies, or do not frequent com-  
mon Prayer, or els do resort secretly or openly into your Parish?  
And whose house do they resort vnto, and of whom are they har-  
boured, & what bee the names of such Popish priests, Seminarie,  
Jesuits, or runnagates, and such as so harbour or relieue them?  
And whether know you any that keep any secret conventicles, reas-  
dings, preachings, or lectures contrary to the Lawe either in the  
day time or night season?

48 How many persons of each sere are fallen away from the  
true Religion established within this Realme, and haue refused, or  
do refuse to repaire to the Church to heare diuine service, and ser-  
mons, since the death of our late Queene of glorious & blessed me-  
moire, & how many since the beginning of this late Session of Par-  
liament, are reuolted from the Church, or forborne to receiue the  
communion within your Parish, what their names and surnames  
are, and of what qualitie and condition they are of?

49 Whether you do know where any Jesuit, Seminarie priest  
or any other of the Romish order hath sayd Masse openly in your  
Parish, since the late Queenes death, or haue encouraged and per-  
suaded any of his Maiesties subjects to sedition or Insurrection, or  
any recusant, Noncommunicant, or any other that haue vled any  
seditious wordes and rased any disloyall reportes and byates to  
that end, what their names and qualities bee?

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50 Whether be there any person or persons, ecclesiasticall or tenur-  
posse within your parish, or elsewhere within the Diocese, that of  
late hath received or kept in their custody, or that read, sell, utter, booke  
disperse, carry or deliver to others, any English bookes, set forth of  
late yeres at Louaine, or in any other place beyond the Seas, by  
Harding, De

Allen Sanders, Stapleton, Marshall, Britton, or

any papist, either against the Kings  
ecclesiasticall, or against true Religion, and  
received & established by common authority

What names and surnames are?

51 Whether be there any person or persons knowne, or behe-  
mently suspected to have written, printed, or by any meanes publi-  
shed & dispersed, or otherwise to have, or to have had in his or their Libels  
use or keeping, any of those slanderous or schismaticall, & seditious  
Libels, or other books that impeach the booke of Common prayer,  
or the Religion & ecclesiasticall government, or any part thereof es-  
tablished by law in this Realme, or that doth impeach the credit or  
estate of any ecclesiasticall person or governour?

52 Whether be there any in your Parish that use to pray in  
English or in Latine upon Beads, or other such like things, or upon  
any superstitious Popish Primer, or other like booke, and what bee  
their names, and whether any superstitious Wake-dayes be still  
kept within your parish?

Beads  
prayer

53 How many adulteries, incests, and fornications have bene  
committed within your Parish or Chappelry since the last visita-  
tion, and how many offenders in those faults have bene put to pe-  
nance, and openly corrected, and who be spared, dispensed withal, or  
not done penance for their offences publicly? & declare the names  
of all such offenders within the space of foure yeres last past pre-  
sented, and have done publike penance for the same, in their Parish  
Church at perulce time.

Adulteries

FINIS.

Rich. Cestrensis.